

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 18, 2007, and the cited art have been carefully considered. The application has been amended to eliminate unnecessary limitations and to correct grammatical and similar errors. Reconsideration of the rejection of the application is respectfully requested based on the amendments and following discussion.

REJECTION 102:

1. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Jacrot US 4,843,276.

Jacrot '276 shows a vehicle lamp with a pressed seal having two opposed broad faces and two opposed narrow faces. The press seal is axially fitted in a metal sleeve.

Jacrot '276 fails to provide a prima facia case of invalidity under 35 USC 102, since Jacrot '276 fails to show, suggest, state or claim a limitation included in Applicants' claims. Jacrot '276 fails to teach "*...at least one of the narrow end faces (111) and the metallic base sleeve (3) are provided with matching means (1110, 33) for a latch connection.*" Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the rejected claims are therefore respectfully requested.

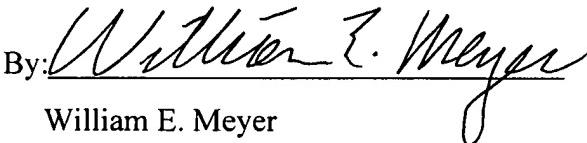
The Examiner's attention is drawn to the serrated steps formed on the narrow end face of the Applicant's lamp 10 shown as item 1110 in FIG. 3, and the corresponding tabs shown as items 33 in FIG. 4.

In contrast, all views of the press seal in Jacrot '276 appear to be flat. While the broad front and rear faces show portions facing cut out windows and weld tab portions, the narrow side faces show only smooth extensions coupled in parallel with the correspondingly smooth faces in the sleeve. No notch, protuberance, serrated ribbing or other latchable feature is shown in Jacrot '276 on either the narrow face of the press seal or the narrow side wall of the sleeve. Jacrot '276 does not show, teach, claim or make obvious a lamp with a press seal having a *narrow end face including a shaped latch element*. Jacrot '276 does not show, teach, claim or make obvious a lamp with a sleeve for a press seal having a *narrow side wall a shaped latch element*.

It is not obvious to form a latching element on the narrow side wall of a press seal. The press feet form the broad faces of the press seal, while the narrow walls are free formed as the glass gushes outwards from the press. The narrow side wall may be irregular in form, but may be side pressed by slides to limit lamp width. Common lamp seal latches are formed by the broad sides of the press as indentations or protuberances. Nothing is formed on the narrow side walls, because the side edges can be thin and fragile, or irregularly filled. The narrow side face offers less of a surrounding orientation surface to align the latch. The side walls as a result have not previously been used for latching. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the rejected claims are therefore respectfully requested.

It is believed that a full and complete response to the Office Action has been made, that the Application as amended is patentably distinct over the cited art, and that the case is now in condition to be passed to issue. Reconsideration of the amended application is therefore requested, and an early favorable notice of allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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